

advice has been sought by officials both inside and outside of government. Admiral McCreary has been the right person, in the right job, at the right time for the U.S. Navy.

I know Rear Admiral McCreary's contributions to our Nation will continue. As he retires, I want to offer him and his wife, Joppat, my personal appreciation for their service and wish them well as they begin this new phase of their lives together.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. COAST
GUARD AIR STATION IN TRA-
VERSE CITY, MI

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in Traverse City, MI, whose heroic efforts on the night of July 8, 2006, saved the lives of two young men adrift on Lake Michigan.

When the boys did not return home after a nighttime swim, the Air Station dispatched Coast Guard Helicopter 6551 to aid in the search mission. Six hours after the boys' disappearance, the crew of 6551—Lieutenant Joe Klatt, Lieutenant Gabe Somma, Aviation Electronic Technician Third Class Bobby Teal, and Chief Aviation Survival Technician Kurt Revels—spotted them clinging to a raft near the Mackinac Bridge on the last leg of their assigned search area. With limited fuel, the crew of 6551 commenced a daring rescue. Lieutenant Klatt flew the helicopter into a stable position; Petty Officer Teal used the rescue hoist to lower Chief Revels into the rough night waters; Chief Revels loaded the young men into the rescue basket; Petty Officer Teal hoisted them into the safety of the helicopter; and Lieutenant Somma navigated the craft to Pellston Airport, where emergency services successfully treated the boys for hypothermia.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District, I applaud the Traverse City Coast Guard Air Station for its tireless efforts to protect the lives and ensure the safety of every person under their watch. The heroism of the crew of Helicopter 6551 illustrates why this Coast Guard Air Station is the only unit to have received the prestigious Coast Guard Aviation Training Center Standardization Excellence Award for 3 consecutive years.

HONORING PHILIP BINKLEY FOR 30
YEARS OF INSTRUCTING YOUNG
MUSICIANS AT LOMA LINDA
ACADEMY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to an extraordinary music teacher who is retiring after 44 years of educating and encouraging youth to strive toward musical excellence, thirty years of which were spent enlightening the minds of students at Loma Linda Academy.

Philip Binkley's interest in music began at an early age and continued throughout his life.

By receiving both a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Music Education, Mr. Binkley proved his sincere devotion to educating others. During his 30 years at the Loma Linda Academy, Mr. Binkley led the school's highest level symphonic band at performances around the globe, setting new standards of achievement. The Loma Linda Academy Symphonic Band was the first high school symphonic band to perform at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, and was one of only nine U.S. and Canada bands selected to perform at the World Exposition in Brisbane, Australia.

Mr. Binkley's continual encouragement strengthened the self-confidence and musical proficiency of each student, resulting in worldwide recognition of the Loma Linda Academy Symphonic Band. In 1992 they captured first place runner-up at the International Music Festival held in Sweden, and won the gold medal at the Munich International Music Festival in 1995. During that same year they represented the United States at the Vienna Klangbogen Festival in Germany.

Mr. Binkley's commitment to his students did not stop at musical excellence; rather he made it a priority to encourage his pupils to live up to the highest standards of integrity. On each trip overseas, he included in the daily itinerary a unique statement which served to remind his students of the importance in serving as model citizens of the United States. Through the Loma Linda Academy Symphonic Band, Mr. Binkley strived to represent to other nations the positive qualities of America's youth.

Outside of teaching, Philip Binkley chose to serve his community by acting as the Minister of Music at several churches in Florida and California. By devoting time to local churches, he was able to expand the musical knowledge of hundreds of individuals. Mr. Binkley's dedication was rewarded with the Loma Linda Teacher of the Year award in 1992 and 2006, and in being named Teacher of Excellence by the Alumni Awards Foundation in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, Philip Binkley has certainly succeeded in becoming an exemplary model of a teacher's commitment to students. Please join me in thanking Mr. Binkley for a lifetime of devotion to the musical education of America's youth, and in wishing him well in his years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 375, 376, and 377 my flight was delayed and I did not arrive in Washington until after the votes were over.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Monday July 17, 2006 due to unavoidable cir-

cumstances in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" to H.R. 3085—To amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail, and for other purposes; "yea" to H.R. 3496—National Capital Transportation Amendments Act of 2005 and "yea" to H.R. 3729—Federal Judiciary Emergency Tolling Act of 2005.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM KARNET
"BILL" WILLIS

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the achievements of William Karnet "Bill" Willis of Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. Willis was a 3-year starter for The Ohio State University and starred on the 1942 National Championship football team as a sophomore. He was twice recognized for his football talents as an All-Big 10 honoree while at The Ohio State University.

After college, Mr. Willis served as the Head Football Coach and Athletic Director of Kentucky State College in 1945. He subsequently signed a contract on August 6, 1946 with the Cleveland Browns to play professional football in the first year that the All-American Football Conference competed.

Upon signing his contract with the Cleveland Browns, Mr. Willis broke the color barrier in professional football a full year before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. With this landmark achievement, Mr. Willis became a role model for others.

Continuing his role as a trailblazer, Mr. Willis played in the first three Pro Bowl games for the National Football League. Specifically, the game-winning tackle by Mr. Willis in the divisional playoff between the New York Giants and the Cleveland Browns propelled the Cleveland Browns to the 1950 National Football League Championship.

Mr. Willis played professional football with the Cleveland Browns for the 8 years from 1946 to 1953.

After his football career, Mr. Willis was appointed to the Ohio Youth Commission in 1963 and was named Commission Director. He is a member of the City of Columbus Hall of Fame in recognition of his accomplishments.

Mr. Willis was inducted into the Professional Football Hall of Fame in 1977 for his outstanding achievements in and contributions toward professional football.

His record of remarkable leadership in helping the young people of Ohio will be a lasting legacy of achievement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KRISTIE THOMAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished individual from my district who was recently crowned Ms. Wheelchair Texas 2006, Ms. Kristie Thomas. The Ms. Wheelchair Pageant, since its establishment in 1972, has promoted the many talents of our disabled citizens as well needs of the mobility impaired.

Ms. Thomas, a native of Hickory Creek, is the pageant's most recent winner. Born 26 years ago with the condition known of cerebral palsy, she has fought for higher quality patient care as well as greater rights for the disabled. As Ms. Wheelchair Texas, Ms. Thomas will be an important spokeswoman for disabled men and women everywhere.

Besides her crown, she also holds a degree in biomedical engineering from Texas A&M University and has established her own Christian clothing company. She also is a professional writer and hopes one day to become a politician.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great to honor that I recognize Ms. Kristie Thomas for her title of Ms. Wheelchair Texas as well as for her continued service to disabled men and women everywhere. I am honored to represent her in Washington, and I know she serves as an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I was granted official leave of absence the week of July 10, 2006. Please let the record reflect, that had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on roll No. 374, final passage of H.R. 9, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.

IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICARE HOME INFUSION THERAPY CONSOLIDATED COVERAGE ACT

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced H.R. 5791, the "Medicare Home Infusion Therapy Consolidated Coverage Act of 2006," along with my colleagues, Representatives ENGEL, KUHL and BALDWIN. This legislation will bring life-saving, cost-effective treatment to Medicare beneficiaries suffering from cancer, serious infections and other conditions that can and should be treated by home infusion therapy. It does so by first consolidating Medicare coverage of home infusion therapy under Part B and then by covering it in a rational and logical manner.

Infusion therapy involves administering medications directly into a patient's bloodstream via a catheter or needle. Infusion therapy is medically necessary for patients with medical conditions that cannot be treated effectively with oral medications. These include infections that are unresponsive to oral antibiotics, cancer and cancer-related pain, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and more. The infusion therapies needed to treat these diseases involve more than the simple delivery of drugs. Rather, patients receiving home infusion therapy require an array of professional services.

In addition, infusion patients also require specialized equipment and supplies. Even with all of these services and supplies, home infusion therapy is often far more cost-effective than obtaining treatment in a hospital or nursing home. Unfortunately, there are gaps in coverage under Medicare. Consequently, the Medicare program and its beneficiaries are not able to take full advantage of the cost savings and innovations made possible through home infusion therapy.

Current Part B coverage of home infusion therapy is limited to what is covered under the durable medical equipment benefit, where coverage is based on the use of an item of DME (i.e., an infusion pump) for administration and extends only to a few drugs. More infusion drugs are coverable under the Part D outpatient prescription drug benefit, but CMS has determined that it does not have the authority to cover the related services, supplies and equipment under Part D. As a result, most beneficiaries who cannot afford to pay these costs out-of-pocket are forced back into hospitals and nursing homes for their infusion treatments. This is a great inconvenience to patients and creates an added cost to the taxpayers—a cost that could be avoided.

Properly provided, home infusion therapy is a clinically and cost-effective medical treatment for serious diseases. Medicare beneficiaries should not continue to be denied access to these therapies because of definitional and coverage policies that do not reflect the components or the costs of care. Congress can fix this by consolidating coverage for home infusion therapy under Part B, apart from the DME benefit. In doing so, we can ensure that our constituents gain access to these therapies in the most cost-effective and convenient setting—their homes.

Under commercial health plans, home infusion usually is covered as a major medical benefit. We should ensure that Medicare can do the same. Part B is able to accommodate and reimburse for the multi-faceted components of a major medical benefit. My bill allows us to use this existing structure to make home infusion therapy work for Medicare beneficiaries.

Every day that passes without complete Medicare coverage of home infusion therapy is a missed opportunity to bring cost-effective care in to the most convenient setting to beneficiaries. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on following bills on July 17, 2006:

H.R. 3729, Federal Judiciary Emergency Tolling Act (roll No. 377): Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 3496, To amend the National Capital Transportation Act of 1969 to authorize additional Federal contributions for maintaining and improving the transit system of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and for other purposes (roll No. 376): Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

H.R. 3085, To amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail, and for other purposes (roll No. 375): Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit an article on promoting civic responsibility that was brought to my attention by a constituent, Gopal Khanna. Mr. Khanna knows a great deal about civic responsibility, having served as a community and business leader, as well as Chief Financial Officer of the Peace Corps. This article outlines the very significant work being done to promote civic responsibility among immigrants, citizens and institutions in America. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CHERIAN PUSHES CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AS MEDIUM FOR CHANGE

[From the India Abroad, May 19, 2006]

(By Aziz Haniffa)

Dr Joy Cherian has embarked on yet another mission, and discovered another outlet for his social activism.

The man who, 25 years ago, founded the Indian American Forum for Political Education, the first ever Indian American political organization, and went on to become the first Indian American to hold a sub-cabinet level rank position in the US government when he served as Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the Ronald Reagan and George H W Bush administrations, signaled his latest direction when, last month, he convened a roundtable conference of the Association of Americans for Civic Responsibility.

Following his stint at the EEOC, Cherian had started his own company, J Cherian Consultants, Inc, which blossomed into a highly successful international government and public relations firm based in Washington, DC. A year ago, he wound that company up and founded the AACR, in conjunction with Syracuse University's School of International Affairs.

The conference, at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of International Relations in Washington, DC, touched on topics as varied as 'The American Immigrant Community and US Immigrant Organizations' and 'The